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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-9 and 12 are pending. Claims 10 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The coating layer in claim 1 and the feature of new claim 12 are supported, for example, at page 4 of the specification.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected as anticipated by Honda and claims 2-6 and 8-11 were rejected as obvious over this reference. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Honda is directed to a light composite rope, and seeks to provide a product having a small section diameter, large tensile strength per section diameter, and large bend strength. See col. 2, lines 3-6. In the reference, a fiber core of a fiber reinforcing bundle is impregnated with thermosetting resin, the periphery of the core is coated with fibers, and the thermosetting resin is cured with heat. As seen in Table 1 of the reference, its product is one having a high modulus of elasticity, i.e. high resistance to bending.

In contrast, claim 1 is directed to a rubber belt comprising a rubber part and a reinforcing cord. The reinforcing cord comprises a carbon fiber strand, and a coating layer containing rubber is formed on the carbon fiber strand.

The cured thermosetting resin used in Honda is highly inelastic and inflexible, which is the very reason it is used in the environment of the reference, and cannot be considered a coating layer formed on a carbon fiber strand as required by claim 1. Moreover, the high modulus of elasticity of Honda's product makes that product completely unsuitable for use in a rubber belt as required by claim 1. Therefore, Honda neither discloses nor suggests the invention of claim 1.

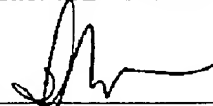
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In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of
a Notice of Allowance.

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